

SUPPORT OF A COMMEMORATIVE  
STAMP HONORING DUKE PAOA  
KAHANAMOKU

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 28, 1999*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with my colleagues the story of one of Hawaii's greatest citizens, Duke Paoa Kahanamoku.

Duke Kahanamoku, who was born on August 24, 1890, is perhaps the most beloved and respected person in Hawaii's recent history. Hawaii's first Olympic champion, Duke represented the United States at the Olympic Games in 1912, 1920, 1924, and 1932, breaking world swimming records and winning five medals, including two gold medals for the 100-meter freestyle. A world-class surfer as well as swimmer, he introduced the ancient Hawaiian sport of surfing to the world and is widely recognized as the "Father of Modern Surfing." Duke was the first athlete to be elected to the International Swimming Hall of Fame and the International Surfing Hall of Fame. He was elected to the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in 1984.

Duke Kahanamoku's enormous personal charm and genial nature won friends for the United States and Hawaii from throughout the world. Duke was a full-blooded Hawaiian raised with the traditions and values of the Hawaiian culture. He truly embodies the spirit of aloha.

Duke retired from competition swimming after the 1934 Olympiad, at age 44. In 1936 he was elected to the office of Sheriff of the City and County of Honolulu—and was re-elected for 13 straight terms. Though he passed away in 1968 at the age of 77, Duke remains a hero and source of pride not only to Native Hawaiians but to all the people of Hawaii. His accomplishments and sportsmanship are remembered by practitioners and fans of ocean sports worldwide.

A campaign to have a U.S. commemorative stamp issued in honor of Duke Kahanamoku has garnered strong support from the people of Hawaii and from his many fans throughout the nation. I have been informed that the proposal for a stamp honoring Duke is under serious consideration by the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee. His many admirers are hopeful that he will be honored with a stamp in 2001.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHNSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BRYAN, TEXAS

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 28, 1999*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in recognition of Johnson Elementary School in the Bryan Independent School District on being the first school in

Brazos Valley to receive recognition as a national Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

To receive recognition, a school must be nominated by its Chief State School Officer or Council. To achieve this recognition, Johnson Elementary had to pass a rigorous screening and a two-day site visit. The school was evaluated on outcome measures and conditions of effective schooling. These included student focus and support, school organization and culture, challenging standards and curriculum, active teaching and learning, professional community, leadership and educational vitality, school, family, and community partnerships, and indicators of success.

This is a monumental accomplishment for the school officials, the teachers and students of Johnson Elementary. I am very proud to have a school that is able to stand up to this rigorous test and achieve such great standing in the Eighth District of Texas.

As a representative here in Washington, it is encouraging to see such an educational achievement back home. Johnson Elementary is able to send a message to the American people that with the winning combination of leadership, hard work, caring, vision, and common sense, excellence is the only reward. The school's motto is, "We develop minds that think and hearts that care." I think they stood true to that belief.

Mr. Speaker, I, as well as the Bryan-College Station community, applaud Johnson Elementary for its tireless dedication to the importance of education. They have set an example for us all to follow.